

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
April 2022

Executive Summary:

Highlights for the month of April range from receiving national recognition for collaborative progress in education and equitable learning recovery to continuing to establish new partnerships that increases access and opportunities enabling Beecher Terrace (BT) families to move closer to stable and thriving results. There are 408 households and 778 individuals (91% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services with USI. This reflects an increase of 3 Households from last month (one new Beecher family and 2 original families were reactivated). USI continues to exceed the target of 80% engagement.

“These cities are demonstrating that they can draw on the strength of their communities harnessing the commitment of local residents, nonprofits and businesses to make a difference in the lives of young people” -The National Civic League’s President, Doug Linkhart. This quote was taken from the All-America City Award Newsletter acknowledging Louisville, Ky. as on one of the nation’s fifteen finalists being recognized for improving the prospects of early school success and equitable learning recovery for children being served by the country’s public housing agencies and affordable housing organizations. USI worked with several CHOICE partners such as LMHA, JCPS, New Directions, Bellarmine University and IWRBR to submit a comprehensive application that captured the synergy and educational support provided for Louisville youth and families. Within the upcoming few months, USI will be leading next steps to develop a presentation and other requirements before this year’s winners are selected by the National Civic League.

Events this month included an Easter Extravaganza and the Resident Council Meeting. The Easter Extravaganza was a multigenerational event that provided fun activities for the families but also included partners such as OVEC to increase access and connectivity to family resources.

- Easter Extravaganza: There were 47 attendees to the event including volunteer support from ECDL Leader P. Washington.
- Resident Council Meeting: (Held on 4/25/22) The resident council continued developing the vision board for the Beecher Terrace Community, identified issues of concern, and lastly developed a nomination form with specified committees to be utilized in the upcoming office votes. There were 9 attendees to the Resident Council meeting (7 BT residents and 2 USI staff).

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. There were two jobs reported this month. This month’s job placements included a warehouse position and Door Dash delivery • 68% of those employed are working full time • 72% have been working for longer than a year, with only 14% obtaining employment within the last 6 months.

Lastly, in efforts to help continue to establish a safe and healthy community for youth and families, USI to continues to execute strategies aimed to link families to opportunities that foster safety, mastery and connection. As a result, this month USI partnered with the Louisville Sports Commission (LSC). The mission of the LSC is to promote active lifestyles and enhance economic vitality by attracting, creating and hosting quality sporting events in the Louisville area. Beecher Terrace youth will participate in the Kids Finish First Program. The goal of this program is to

encourage youth between 5-14 to take steps toward an active lifestyle by training to complete a half marathon. 11 youth signed up for the program.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	408 (90%) and 778 participants
<p>Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings ad conducted to engage residents, increase residents in family support services or to support residents who are actively participating with USI:</p> <p>USI continues efforts to enroll and engage all eligible Beecher Terrace families. USI is maintaining a 91% enrollment rate of eligible households. This month USI enrolled one new Beecher Terrace family and reactivated 2 original Households. 2 Households opted out of services this month, as well. Each month USI conducts various outreach strategies to engage and inform residents. Per request of Beecher Residents, this month USI launched our outreach and engagement “Bingo with a Purpose” Series. Each month USI with partner with a community resource and host Bingo sessions that allows residents to establish a trusting rapport with each other but also become informed on vital information intended to support the families. This month USI partnered with Commonwealth Credit Union and focused on the importance a maintain Important Documents. 21 residents participated in the first Bingo session. Additional outreach strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Providing a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents. 2)Conducting door knocking to share flyers and but also to sharing information regarding available family support services. 3)Utilizing ONE call system that sends mass phone calls, texts and emails. USI has increased subgroups in the ONE Call systems to increase targeted outreach to identified populations. 4)Use of social media to engage and promote opportunities and successes of Beecher residents and supporting Choice Partners. <p>USI continues to collaborate with LMHA property managers, McCormack Baron Management group, and other landlords to assist residents with all concerns impacting housing stability. USI staff continue to meet with residents and property management staff to process late rent situations and lease violations by developing a plan of action to rectify any violations. LMHA property managers and MBM both submit monthly reports that highlight residents requiring support due to late rent or other lease violations. USI staff then immediately follows up with resident and/or property management to support a resolution. As reported last month, emergency covid response funds have been depleted. USI staff have returned to pre-Covid resources to assist residents with rent and utility support. These services are offered through the Office of Resilience and residents must meet eligibility criteria for limited support.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (227 total)	2022 Target: 181 or 80% 144 or 63% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed
# and % of 18–24-year-old youth in secondary education and/or job training (32 eligible)	2022 Target: 20 or 70% 14 or 45% of individuals between 18-24 are employed.
2022 EMPLOYMENT TARGETS:	

- Increase working work-able to (182 or 80%)
- Increase the number of 18–24-year-old youth in post-secondary education and/or job training (22 or 70%)

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. This month there were two jobs obtained this month. This month's job placements included positions in a warehouse and Door Dash.

- 68% of those employed are working full time
- 72% have been working for longer than a year, with only 14% obtaining employment within the last 6 months.

USI strives to achieve the goal of employing 80% of Beecher Terrace workable households by executing various strategies to match residents with career interests and skill sets.

Strategies include:

- **Working to Remove Barriers that impact Employment:**
- **(Childcare)** Lack of childcare and transportation have been identified as the top 2 barriers to employment. USI has partnered with Chestnut YMCA to provide 25 early childhood slots for families with 3 and 4 yr. old youth). USI targeted families that have identified lack of childcare as a barrier to employment to benefit from this opportunity. USI also works closely with OVEC, MiniVersity and other Early Childhood agencies to provide support and follow up with families. There were 7 additional early childhood referrals this month. 2 youth were referred to private childcare and 4 were referred to kindergarten readiness opportunities. There have been 15 families referred to OVEC and YMCA. There were 2 additional youth enrolled in OVEC this month: for a total of 4 enrolled to date. USI staff worked intensively to follow up on previous referrals and assist with needed documentation to increase enrollment.
- **(Increase Career Training)** In order to assist residents to return to the workforce, increase wages or transition careers, extensive job training may be necessary. USI recognizes the benefits of career training such as increasing productivity and skill level. Additionally, career training assists residents with keeping current in a world where both technology and societal expectations are rapidly changing. USI works to connect residents with career development opportunities that are resident driven and requested. The top 3 career interests expressed are warehouse/manufacturing, medical and food and culinary. This month there were 2 additional Beecher residents enrolled in Catholic Charities Common Table program.
- **(Increase Access to Employment)** USI continues to seek employment opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, bus line accessibility and a reasonable path towards living wages. USI hosted its first **College and Career Prep Series**. USI partnered with the Kentucky Career Center to provide onsite job readiness opportunities including resume support, career training and current available opportunities. There were 12 attendees to this event. USI partners with the Urban League Senior Jobs Program and the **Workforce Wednesday Initiative**. USI staff target residents weekly to participate in the virtual workforce opportunity that gives residents direct access to hiring employers from various sectors of the community. This event also provides barrier removal support for those needing second chance employment or others needing supplemental documentation such

as social security cards and driver's license. Residents receive weekly prompts regarding the virtual opportunity

- **(Disabled and Chronically Ill)** 16% of the unemployed work able population has self-reported as chronically ill or in chronic pain, currently seeking disability and ultimately does not wish to obtain employment. USI Family Support Specialists continue to support residents throughout the disability application process which often includes, assisting with paperwork and obtaining supporting documents, ensuring medical appointments are kept, and connecting to legal services when necessary.
 - **Homeownership Pipeline** Urban Strategies remains committed to moving families to more thriving results in terms of Economic Mobility beyond obtaining employment. Recent, strategic planning yielded an established a goal to connecting 25 Beecher Terrace families to the Homeownership Pipeline by the end of 2022. The Homeownership pipeline includes partnerships and resources that assist families at any point of the homeownership process. This ranges from budgeting, financial literacy and repair to connecting residents with lending officers and realtors that are all invested and aligned in advancing equity around wealth building and home ownership. This month there was one more family connected to the pipeline via homeownerships programs with Swan Financial for credit repair. To date there have been 10 families connected to the Home Ownership pipeline.
 - **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** the FSS program helps families to increase their earnings and build financial capability and assets
 - **Commonwealth Credit Union.** The Commonwealth Credit Union has a community focus that offers second chance opportunities and benefits for the under/unbanked population such as checking/savings accounts, credit review/repair and other home owning options.
 - **Homeownership programs and supports.** Several Choice Partners and community resources have programs to support various stages of the homeownership process. Such resources include LCCC, Louisville Urban League, Goodwill Industries, Diamond Key Realtors, and others.

Education:

Updates on Education: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving educational outcomes for children this month)

USI is implementing the following strategies to advance educational outcomes and increase parent engagement:

Ages and Stages Developmental Screenings: We have continued to conduct ongoing monthly meetings with Play Cousins and Metro United Way to discuss our ongoing partnerships, progress in registering youth in their services, and developing strategies in increase enrollment an overall participation in activities and services. 62% of targeted population has been screened for developmental delays. USI Education Specialist and PlayCousins staff have developed a system to allows for sharing up to date information and ongoing needs for youth and families.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: USI continues to partner with Catholic Charities, OVEC, 4C's

and YMCA to move youth through the early learning pipeline that helps expectant mothers before birth to assistance with kindergarten registration. 59% of 0-4 Beecher Youth (39/66) are enrolled in early learning programs. The month denotes an increase of unlicensed childcare placement. As FSS staff follow up on all eligible youth, many families report that their paramours and familial relatives are caretaking for the youth. Breakdown as follows:

- Early Headstart: 17%
- Headstart: 9%
- PreK in Public School: 15%
- Licensed Childcare Center: 20%
- Licensed Childcare Home: 1.5%
- Unlicensed (family, church) 13%

USI continues to work closely with OVEC and other partners to assist youth with registration to Headstart/Early Headstart and Licensed Childcare. USI staff are working to follow up with all referred families to further assist with missing documentation and facilitate connection with early childhood partners. The primary barrier tends to be obtaining all supportive documents such as birth certificates or complications that arise with obtaining childcare subsidies. Also due to limited funding for the subsidy program, many families are deemed ineligible. There are currently 15 referrals to early learning programs with only 8 enrollments this month (2 with OVEC, 4 with YMCA, 2 private childcare). FSS staff continue to follow up with all referrals to further assist with obtaining documentation and other needed documents. USI is also working with partners to conduct “maintaining important documents” trainings to assist families that often struggle with having needed documentation to be properly linked to community resources and supports.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports:

- Girl Scouts of Ky: Onsite (unlimited slots) {15 active youth/3 new members this month}
- Sowing Seeds with Faith: Onsite (25 slots) (4 youth enrolled)
- Bellarmine University: Virtual (45-50 slots) {4 enrolled/3 waitlisted}
- I Would Rather Be Reading: Site Based/TBD (45 slots) {18 youth enrolled}
- LCCC: Site Based/Russell : (25 Slots)

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(741) – 98% of Residents have Health Insurance
Updates on Health and Wellness: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving health and wellness outcomes for residents this month)	
58% of Beecher Terrace residents report having a chronic health condition. Illnesses include high blood pressure, asthma, and depression. Understanding that housing is a social determinant of health has long been established. Factors such as housing stability, quality, safety, and affordability all affect health outcomes. Therefore, in addition to efforts to stabilize housing, USI utilizes a holistic approach to execute strategies aimed to provide support that looks at the health and wellness of the whole person; the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. This month’s strategies include:	

Strengthening Partnerships: Supporting Seniors USI continues to strengthen relationships with partners and resources targeted for Seniors. This month the following partners supported Beecher Seniors:

- MOLO Village/KSU: Dare to Care Food Box deliveries
- Hope Buss: Food and Basic Care Package Deliveries
- Genesis Arts: Art and Soul Program (3 hr. sessions twice a week)

Increasing Food Security. This month as many COVID resources begin to dwindle, USI staff had an increase of service linkages regarding food security. USI continues to partner with MOLO Village, Dare to Care, Hope Buss, Sister Visitors, Community Ministries and Neighborhood Place to provide connections to food and resources. There were 9 food boxes/linkages this month.

Beecher Walks. This month Beecher residents and USI staff reignited the Beecher Walks walking club. This walking program is a health and wellness strategy aimed to encourage Beecher Terrace residents, targeting seniors and residents with chronic health conditions to increase walking, physical activity and socialization. USI staff and participating residents walk every Wednesday morning, starting at the Beecher Terrace Senior Building. This month Beecher Walks was impacted by the Weather.

Conducting Monthly Targeted Health Chats. Each month a topic is chosen, in addition to selected residents and families. Through collaborative efforts with Passport, YMCA, Family Health Centers and JenCare, USI staff provide information regarding health benefits, resources, and tools, when needed. Due to the overwhelming increase in COVID cases and its consequential effects such as disproportionately higher rates of disease, death and collective negative social impacts for Black communities, this month’s Health Chats focused on “Healthy Benefits of Walking” and COVID interventions and supports. In efforts to increase engagement in the Beecher Walks program, the topic of Healthy Benefits of Walking was continued throughout April. This month, health chats also included assessing if families are participating in trauma reducing programs and activities. 10 Residents received intensive Health Chats this month.

Additionally, to mitigate disproportionate outcomes of the COVID pandemic, USI staff also continued conducting outreach and assisting residents with registering for the COVID vaccination.

The results are as follows:

5 Residents	Do Not want Vaccine or Info
0 Resident	Remain Undecided
0 Residents	Refused to Discuss
5 Residents	Already Received Vaccine

0 Residents	Participate in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities
10 Residents	Not Participating in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities